

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 723

To require the United States Trade Representative to determine whether the European Union has failed to implement satisfactorily its obligations under certain trade agreements relating to United States meat and pork exporting facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 1997

Mr. HOSTETTLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To require the United States Trade Representative to determine whether the European Union has failed to implement satisfactorily its obligations under certain trade agreements relating to United States meat and pork exporting facilities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fair Trade in Meat
5 and Pork Products Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The European Union's Third Country Meat
2 Directive has been used to decertify more than 400
3 United States facilities exporting beef and pork
4 products to the European Union even though United
5 States health inspection procedures are equivalent to
6 those provided for in the Third Country Meat Direc-
7 tive.

8 (2) An effect of the decertifications is to pro-
9 hibit the importation of United States beef and pork
10 products into the European Union.

11 (3) As a result of the decertifications, the high-
12 ly competitive United States pork industry loses as
13 much as \$60,000,000 each year from trade with Eu-
14 ropean Union countries.

15 (4) In July 1987 and November 1990, at the
16 request of affected United States industries, the
17 United States initiated investigations under section
18 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into the European
19 Union's administration of the Third Country Meat
20 Directive and sought resolution of the meat and
21 pork trade problems through the dispute settlement
22 process established under the General Agreement on
23 Tariffs and Trade.

24 (5) The United States Trade Representative
25 preliminarily concluded on October 10, 1992, that

1 the European Union’s administration of the Third
2 Country Meat Directive created a burden on and re-
3 stricted United States commerce.

4 (6) Bilateral talks, initiated as a result of that
5 finding, resulted in an Exchange of Letters in which
6 the United States and the European Union con-
7 cluded that the meat inspection systems of the
8 United States and the European Union provided
9 “equivalent safeguards against public health risks”
10 and agreed to take steps to resolve remaining dif-
11 ferences regarding meat inspection.

12 (7) Even though the United States terminated
13 the section 301 investigation as a result of the Ex-
14 change of Letters, the United States determined
15 that the practices under investigation would have
16 been actionable if an acceptable agreement had not
17 been reached.

18 (8) United States meat and pork producers
19 have displayed consistent interest in exporting prod-
20 ucts to the European Union and have undertaken
21 substantial investment to take the steps specified by
22 the Exchange of Letters.

23 (9) The European Union has failed to acknowl-
24 edge changes in plant safety and inspection proce-
25 dures undertaken in the United States specifically at

1 the European Union's request and has not fulfilled
2 its obligation to inspect and relist United States pro-
3 ducers who have taken the steps specified by the Ex-
4 change of Letters.

5 (10) The actions of the European Union in con-
6 ducting United States plant inspections places the
7 European Union in violation of commitments made
8 in the Exchange of Letters.

9 (11) The European Union, in addition to being
10 a party to the Exchange of Letters, is a signatory
11 to GATT 1994 and to the Agreement on the Appli-
12 cation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures,
13 which requires that meat and pork inspection proce-
14 dures under Department of Agriculture regulations
15 be treated as equivalent to inspection procedures re-
16 quired by the European Union under the Third
17 Country Meat Directive if the regulations achieve
18 the European level of sanitary protection.

19 (12) Whenever a foreign country is not satisfac-
20 torily implementing an international trade measure
21 or agreement, the United States Trade Representa-
22 tive is required under section 306(b)(1) of the Trade
23 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2416(b)(1)) to determine
24 the actions to be taken under section 301(a) of such
25 Act.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.—The term “Ex-
4 change of Letters” means the exchange of letters
5 concerning the application of the Community Third
6 Country Directive, signed in May 1991 and Novem-
7 ber 1992, which constitute the agreement between
8 the United States and the European Economic Com-
9 munity regarding the Third Country Meat Directive.

10 (2) GATT 1994.—The term “GATT 1994”
11 means the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
12 annexed to the World Trade Organization Agree-
13 ment, entered into on April 15, 1994.

14 (3) THIRD COUNTRY MEAT DIRECTIVE; COMMU-
15 NITY THIRD COUNTRY DIRECTIVE.—The terms
16 “Third Country Meat Directive” and “Community
17 Third Country Directive” mean the European
18 Union’s Council Directive 72/462/EEC relating to
19 inspection and certification of slaughter and process-
20 ing plants that export meat and pork products to
21 the European Union.

22 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT FOR DETERMINATION BY UNITED**
23 **STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.**

24 Not later than thirty days after the date of enactment
25 of this Act, the United States Trade Representative shall
26 determine, for purposes of section 306(b)(1) of the Trade

1 Act of 1974, whether the European Union has failed to
2 implement satisfactorily its obligations under the Ex-
3 change of Letters, the Agreement on the Application of
4 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, or any other Agree-
5 ment.

6 **SEC. 5. REQUEST FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.**

7 If the United States Trade Representative determines
8 under section 4 that the European Union has failed to
9 implement satisfactorily its obligations under the Ex-
10 change of Letters, the Agreement on the Application of
11 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, or any other agree-
12 ment, the United States Trade Representative shall
13 promptly request proceedings on the matter under the for-
14 mal dispute settlement procedures as set forth in section
15 301 of the United States Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.
16 2411).

17 **SEC. 6. REVIEW OF CERTAIN MEAT FACILITIES.**

18 (a) REVIEW BY FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION
19 SERVICE.—If the United States Trade Representative de-
20 termines pursuant to section 4 that the European Union
21 has failed to implement satisfactorily its obligations under
22 the Exchange of Letters, the Agreement on the Applica-
23 tion of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, or any other
24 Agreement, the United States Trade Representative shall
25 request the Secretary of Agriculture (who, upon receipt

1 of the request, shall) direct the Food Safety and Inspec-
2 tion Service of the Department of Agriculture to review
3 certifications for European Union facilities that import
4 meat and other agricultural products into the United
5 States.

6 (b) RELATIONSHIP TO USTR AUTHORITY.—The re-
7 view authorized under subsection (a) is in addition to the
8 authority of the United States Trade Representative to
9 take actions described in section 301(c)(1) of the Trade
10 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411(c)(1)).

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